SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claim 23.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

U.S. Patent No. 5,978,236 to Faberman, et al. ("the Faberman patent").

Proposed Amendments

Applicant proposed revising the independent claims to include clarifying language related to linear regulation of the bi-directional transistor to control current to the battery.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

None of the cited references describe linear regulation of a bi-directional transistor to control current to a battery. The Faberman patent describes switching techniques (e.g., pulse width modulation, duty cycle modulation, frequency modulation) in which a transistor acts as a switch that is alternately fully on/off to control current to a battery. In switching techniques, the current level is determined by the durations that the switch is on. In linear regulation, the current level is determined by a control voltage (e.g., a gate voltage) for the bi-directional transistor.

It was also discussed that the Faberman patent shows a diode in parallel with a switch for interfacing to the battery. This parallel combination is different than a bi-directional transistor that conducts both the charging current and discharging current for the battery. For example, the structure shown in the Faberman patent does not allow a battery to be fully disconnected from a load.

Results of Interview

It was Applicant's understanding that amending the claims with clarifying language related to linear regulation of the bi-directional transistor would distinguish the claims from the cited references.